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PUFFERS, SHEARLINGS AND PONCHOS AT NYFW PAGES 26-27

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Tuesday, February 11, 2014 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

'A FAIR SHOT'

Big ideas. Mayor Bill de Blasio pushed a broad progressive agenda in his first State of the City speech. **Top priorities.** He called for a municipal ID for undocumented workers, city control of minimum wage and universal prekindergarten, among other items on his legislative wish list. PAGE 02

Drawn to Instagram

PAGE 06

Eliska Podzimkova has gained thousands of Instagram followers thanks to her illustrations of NYC photographs. / ILLUSTRATION BY ELISKA PODZIMKOVA, PHOTO BY BLACK SMOKE

What's cheesy in Sochi? The pants!

PAGE 21

'Love' lessons from 50,000 letters

PAGE 25

Going beyond Disney in Orlando

PAGE 28

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NEWS

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

1 'VIDEO: Samuel L. Jackson schools anchor for confusing him with Laurence Fishburne'

2 "Game of Thrones' releases 15-minute teaser'

3 'VIDEO: Ski ballet is the one event that should return to the winter Olympics'

Quoted

"To all of my fellow New Yorkers who are undocumented, I say: New York City is your home, too."

Bill de Blasio

Mayor talks progressive vision in State of City

ONE NEW YORK
Rising Together
"We demand a city that lifts the floor for those struggling day to day, that offers every New Yorker a fair shot."
"We want to ensure that New Yorkers aren't relegated to the ranks of the poor when putting in a full week's work."

Mayor Bill de Blasio said that New York City needs to tackle income inequality issues. / GETTY IMAGES

Plan. In his first annual address, de Blasio laid out a range of initiatives to end "the tale of two cities."

Standing below a banner calling for "One New York Rising Together," Mayor Bill de Blasio outlined a sweeping progressive agenda in his inaugural State of the City address Monday.

"We demand a city that lifts the floor for those struggling day to day, that offers every New Yorker a fair shot. Because that is that we all signed up for," de Blasio said at LaGuardia Community College in Queens.

In the speech, the mayor called for reforms to tackle systemic inequalities within "the tale of two cities" chronicled throughout his campaign.

De Blasio promised to develop a municipal ID card for undocumented immigrants and said his administration would reexamine Superstorm Sandy recovery.

The mayor also plans to sign an executive order expanding living wage measures in the five boroughs.

"We want to ensure that New Yorkers aren't relegated to the ranks of the poor when putting in a full week's work," he said.

De Blasio acknowledged challenges ahead, particularly crafting a budget with more than 150 unsettled labor contracts.

"We will navigate toward a future that is progressive and fiscally responsible," he said.

Among other proposals in the address, de Blasio announced his administration would lobby for local control of the minimum wage, along with a tax on wealthy New Yorkers to fund universal prekindergarten, which became his signature campaign proposal.

Both measures face push-back from state lawmakers. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for the state budget to fund universal prekindergarten across New York. State Senate GOP leader Dean Skelos told reporters Monday that he would not allow a vote on de Blasio's prekindergarten measure.

Queens Councilman Eric Ulrich, a member of the three-member Republican minority, said he didn't know if the tax was necessary to fund prekindergarten.

Ulrich said former mayor Michael Bloomberg did good things for the city.

"Certainly when de Blasio was sworn into office, he inherited a city that was far better off than the city Mike Bloomberg inherited 12 years ago," Ulrich said.

Democratic leaders praised the speech.

"To me, it's a real shift," City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said, noting the mayor's calls for teamwork between officials and the communities they represent. "This is about a moral obligation that we have in the city of New York to help uplift everyone."

Throughout the address, de Blasio frequently quoted Fiorello LaGuardia, invoking his favorite former mayor's progressive legacy.

"LaGuardia called for 'government with a soul,'" he said. "And that is what we resolve to do."

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By the numbers

12

The last time New York City had a new mayor was 12 years ago.

Agenda

De Blasio pushed for:

- Living wage expansion
- Local control of minimum wage
- High-quality jobs in the five boroughs
- Municipal ID cards for immigrants
- Community health care
- Sandy recovery acceleration
- Universal pre-K

Immigration

De Blasio calls for city ID card within a year

Mayor Bill de Blasio wants to give all New Yorkers access to a universal ID card, regardless of immigration status before the year's end.

While the particulars of a universal New York City ID cards still need to be hammered out, immigrants previously lacking proper identification would gain access to certain services mundane to New York City residents with government approved ID.

The new ID card could enable formerly unregistered residents to open bank accounts and sign leases, as well as apply for social services including public housing programs.

It would not be a driver's license.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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Bill de Blasio answers a question about stop-and-frisk at the Talking Transition event. / GETTY IMAGES

Group unveils community survey tallies

Snapshot. Talking Transition gathered input from 52,700 New Yorkers about the state of the city.

Organizers behind the pop-up tent in downtown Manhattan that became a civic and political hub after Mayor Bill de Blasio's win last fall released the results of their citywide survey on Monday.

While community leaders and newly elected politicians gathered under the white tent at the corner of Canal and Varick streets, the Talking Transition engagement project — funded by a coalition of philanthropic groups including George Soros' Open Society Foundations — sent out more than 100 canvassers across the five boroughs to take the city's pulse ahead of the new administration.

Despite demographic differences between neighborhoods, Danny Fuchs, Talking Transition's project director, presented the results of the survey as proof of the city uniting behind a single issue, and one that the de Blasio administration already committed to addressing.

"New Yorkers cannot afford the housing in their neighborhoods, and the problem is getting worse," Fuchs wrote.

The negative reaction to the city's living affordability struck every neighborhood equally. According to the survey, 69 percent of respondents think housing in their neighborhoods is getting worse, with 14 percent believing it's improving.

Quoted

"New Yorkers cannot afford the housing in their neighborhoods and the problem is getting worse."
Fuchs

The survey also measured New Yorkers' feelings on community relations with police, with more than 60 percent grading their neighborhoods as good or OK.

The survey was based on answers from some 52,700 residents from across the five boroughs who provided valid responses for the survey.

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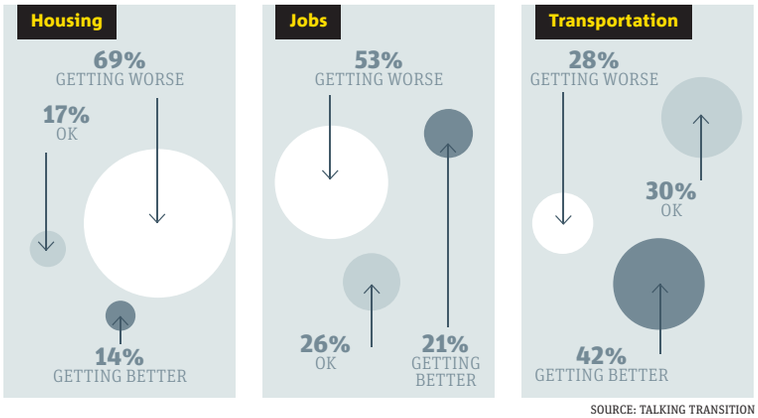

SOURCE: TALKING TRANSITION

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Eliska Podzimkova adds illustrations to New York City photos that people send her.
ILLUSTRATION BY ELISKA PODZIMKOVA, PHOTO BY ILITCH PETERS

Instagram artist brings New York photos to life

See more at www.metro.us

Greatest city. A former New York student has gained thousands of fans from the illustrations she adds into city photographs.

Eliska Podzimkova, 21, lives halfway across the world in Prague, but she dreams of New York and spends her time adding playful, eye-catching illustrations to photos and videos of the city on her Instagram account AnimateNY.

The Czech animation student said she spent part of 2012 in New York studying at the New York Film Academy and fell in love with the city. She opened the AnimateNY Instagram account last year and has amassed thousands of followers since.

She started adding illustrations of New York last spring to help her remember the city she fell in love with. "I found places I've been to before that I love so much and I'm creative so I wanted to add something that made it my own," she said.

The former DUMBO resident now has people approach her to add illustrations to their New York photographs. "A lot of people ask me to edit one of their photos, but I'm not always able to edit every photo," she said.

Inspiration

"The city inspires me so much."
Eliska Podzimkova

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Brooklyn

Man, woman found dead in apartment

Police are investigating after two people were found dead in a Crown Heights apartment on Sunday.

Cops found the bodies about 7 p.m. inside 970 Eastern Parkway after responding to a 911 call.

A 28-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman were pronounced dead at the scene. **LAURA SHIN**

OWS. Protester faces jail for elbowing cop

An activist faces up to seven years in prison for allegedly elbowing an NYPD officer during a march marking the six-month anniversary of Occupy Wall Street.

Cecily McMillan, 25, was charged with felony assault of a police officer and second-degree assault, a class D felony, after her arrest on March 17, 2012.

She allegedly elbowed an officer behind her in the face when he grabbed her during the protest.

OWS protestor / GETTY IMAGES

Nearly two years later, jury selection in McMillan's case began Monday. **ANNA SANDERS**

Cockfighting ring busted in New York

Angry birds. Two of the three locations were inside the city.

Authorities brought down a three-county cockfighting ring this weekend, rescuing more than 3,000 birds and making nine felony arrests, Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced.

The Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, with the help of the ASPCA, the Ulster County Sheriff's office, the Department of Homeland Security and New York State Police, simultaneously raided a cockfight in Queens, a pet shop in Brooklyn and a farm in Plattekill between Saturday night and Sunday morning.

"Cockfighting is a cruel, abusive and barbaric practice that tortures animals, endangers the health and safety of the public and is known to facilitate other crimes," Schneiderman said.

"Operation Angry Birds" is the largest cockfighting bust in state history, according to the attorney general's office.

In Queens, authorities raided a cockfighting event inside 74-26 Jamaica Ave. A total of 70 people were taken into custody at the scene. Six of those people, who had brought and fought birds, were charged with felonies. Sixty-five birds were rescued by the ASPCA.

In Brooklyn, investigators raided Pet NV, located at 71 Central Ave. in Bushwick.

Fifty fighting birds were rescued from metal cages.

The store's owner, 74-year-old Jeremias Nieves, was arrested and charged with prohibition of animal fighting.

Cockfighting contraband, including artificial spurs, candle wax and syringes, were also recovered from the shop.

On Sunday morning, investigators also raided a 90-acre farm in upstate Plattekill. As many as 3,000 birds were recovered there.

Farm manager Manuel Cruz, 60, and Jesus Cruz, 37, a farm hand, were arrested and arraigned.

The ASPCA has set up a temporary shelter to care for the animals.

LAURA SHIN
letters@metro.us

By the numbers

3K
Number of birds rescued

70
People taken into custody

9
People charged with felonies

THE COCKFIGHTING RING WAS THE LARGEST IN NEW YORK HISTORY.
GETTY IMAGES

Blood sport

"My office, along with our partners in law enforcement and animal welfare, are committed to ending this vicious blood sport."
Eric Schneiderman

Illegal game

At the cockfighting events, spectators were charged an admission and an additional fee for a seat within the secret location. Alcohol was sold and drugs were used openly, according to the attorney general's office.

- Cockfighting is a crime in all 50 states. In New York, cockfighting and possession of a fighting bird at a cockfighting location are felonies, and each charge carries a maximum penalty of four years in jail and a fine of $25,000.

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US envoy's invitation is withdrawn for North Korea visit

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No explanation. It is unknown why U.S. special envoy Robert King's invitation was rescinded.

Robert King is the U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights. / GETTY IMAGES

The White House said on Monday it was "deeply disappointed" by North Korea's decision to rescind an invitation to U.S. envoy Robert King to visit Pyongyang to discuss the release of imprisoned U.S. missionary Kenneth Bae.

The White House remains prepared to send King, the U.S. special envoy for North Korean human rights issues, to North Korea [the Democratic People's Republic of Korea], White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

"We are deeply disappointed by the DPRK decision for a second time to rescind its invitation for Ambassador King to travel to Pyongyang to discuss Kenneth Bae's release," Carney told reporters.

Bae, a 45-year-old Korean-American, has been held for more than a year in North Korea after being sentenced to 15 years of hard labor on charges of trying to overthrow the state.

A delegation including a retired U.S. diplomat now in North Korea is not visiting at Washington's behest, a U.S. official said on Monday.

The retired diplomat, Donald Gregg, who was U.S. ambassador to South Korea in the late 1980s and 1990s, arrived in Pyongyang for a visit with a group, North Korea's official new agency KCNA said on Sunday. **REUTERS**

Quoted

"This private delegation did not travel to North Korea on behalf of the U.S. government."

The U.S. official
Who spoke on condition of anonymity

March visit

Netanyahu to talk curbs on Iran with Obama

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has condemned a big power deal with Iran on its nuclear activity, said he would meet U.S. President Obama in Washington next month to further the goal of denying Tehran an atomic bomb capability.

Netanyahu said the main aim of his Washington visit would be to further the goal of preventing Iran from being able to "break out" a nuclear bomb. **REUTERS**

Chat. Christie request for Hoboken mayor interview rebuffed

Dawn Zimmer, the mayor of Hoboken, N.J., rebuffed a request by lawyers for the office of Gov. Chris Christie to interview her about her claims that his administration threatened to withhold Hurricane Sandy aid if she didn't back a real estate development project.

Randy Mastro, an attorney representing Christie's office, sent letters Feb. 4 seeking documents and interviews with Zimmer and four city employees. On Feb. 6, Zimmer's lawyer Gerald Krovatin declined the request, writing that the mayor and the city are already cooperating with a probe by U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman in Newark, N.J.

"We question whether it is appropriate for the governor's office, in essence, to be investigating itself, particularly when an investigation of the same subject matter is being conducted by the U.S. attorney's office," Krovatin wrote to Mastro of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP. **BLOOMBERG**

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Lawmakers to NFL: Redskins name is an insult, not an honor

The Redskins flags fly by as the Washington Redskins take the field before a game. / GETTY IMAGES

Controversy. The pro football team in the nation's capital says it will not change its moniker.

Two U.S. lawmakers on Monday rejected the National Football League's claim that the Washington Redskins name was an honor to Native Americans and urged the sports league to recognize it as a racial slur and back changing the name.

In a letter to the NFL, Sen. Maria Cantwell, a Democrat from Washington state, and Republican Congressman Tom Cole, of Oklahoma, criticized the NFL's defense of the name.

"It is, in fact, an insult to Native Americans. We are calling on you and the [NFL] to take a formal position in support of a name change," they wrote in the letter, first reported by The New York Times.

Redskins spokesman Tony Wyllie, in an email to Reuters, chided the lawmakers for focusing on the team's name given other pressing national issues.

"With all the important issues Congress has to deal with such as a war in Afghanistan to deficits to health care, don't they have more important issues to worry about than a football team's name? And given the fact that the name of Oklahoma means 'Red People' in Choctaw, this request is a little ironic," Wyllie said.

The letter follows comments by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in support of the Redskins' moniker, which the owner has vowed to keep. REUTERS

Quoted

"The terminology used by the Washington football team has been determined to be a slur."

The lawmakers

Deadly attack

Bomb kills two US contractors in Kabul

A suicide bomber in a car attacked a convoy of foreign troops in Kabul on Thursday, killing at least 15 people including six Americans, Afghan and foreign officials said, in one of the worst attacks in the Afghan capital in months.

Forty people were wounded in the blast during the morning rush hour.

The Hezb-e-Islami insurgent group, which is allied with the Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack on the two-vehicle convoy. REUTERS

Giving

Zuckerberg tops 2013 philanthropy list in the US

Facebook Inc. founder and Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg and his wife topped a list of the biggest U.S. philanthropic donors in 2013, giving away nearly $1 billion, the Chronicle of Philanthropy said on Monday.

Top donors

$7.7B

The top 50 U.S. donors gave $7.7 billion last year, up 4 percent from the previous year, helped by a surge on Wall Street, according to the Chronicle, which compiles the list.

Living donors pledged $6.2 billion, an amount nearly equal to the money they gave away in the previous two years combined, and more than living donors have given since 2008, the Chronicle said, releasing the list in its online issue dated Feb. 10.

The median gift amount of $86.1 million set a record, it said.

Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, topped the list with their gift to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which provides grants to address local needs.

Second on the list was George Mitchell, who transformed the natural gas industry by helping to develop fracking. REUTERS

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Astronomy. Ancient star helps scientists understand Big Bang

Australian astronomers have found the oldest known star in the universe, a discovery that may help to resolve a long-standing discrepancy between observations and predictions of the Big Bang billions of years ago.

Dr. Stefan Keller, lead researcher at the Australian National University Research School, told Reuters his team had seen the chemical fingerprint of the "first star." After 11 years of searching, the star was discovered using the SkyMapper telescope at the Siding Spring Observatory.

"This star was formed shortly after the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago," Keller said.

"It's giving us insight into our fundamental place in the universe. What we're seeing is the origin of where all the material around us that we need to survive came from."

Simply put, the Big Bang was the inception of the universe, he said, with nothing before that event.

"This is the first time we've unambiguously been able to say we've got material from the first generation of stars," Keller said. "We're now going to be able to put that piece of the jigsaw puzzle in its right place."

The composition of the newly discovered star shows it formed in the wake of a primordial star, which had a mass 60 times that of our Sun. **REUTERS**

Light-years

6K

The ancient star is about 6,000 light-years from Earth — relatively close in astronomical terms. It was one of 60 million stars photographed by SkyMapper in its first year.

See more at
www.metro.us
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Branson is predicting that his plan to give paying guests a taste of zero gravity for $200,000 will be profitable in three years.

Branson's space venture to fly this year

U.K. billionaire Richard Branson said his Virgin Galactic venture is on track to carry its first fare-paying passenger to the edge of space this year, and that he plans to take his family on a flight some time in 2014. Virgin Galactic, which completed the third rocket-powered supersonic flight of its SpaceShipTwo vehicle from Mojave Air and Space Port in California last month, is on course to meet its operational targets, Branson said Monday in Dubai. "It will be the start of a whole new space era," the entrepreneur said at the 2014 United Arab Emirates Government Summit. Branson said Virgin Galactic's ultimate ambition remains trips between cities at near-orbital speeds, slashing even the longest journey times. Such point-to-point travel is probably 12 years away, with flights between the most distant points, such as London-Australia, offering the biggest gains. **BLOOMBERG** / GETTY IMAGES

Saturday snacks

Weekend cheating might help dieters succeed

Go ahead and eat a few French fries or a couple of bites of chocolate cake — as long as it's the weekend, when diets tend to fall by the wayside only to be resumed on Monday morning, a new study suggests.

"Regardless of who you are, there's a rhythm to the weight you lose," one of the study's authors, Brian Wansink, told Reuters Health. "You're going to weigh the most on Sunday night and the least on Friday morning," he said.

"You don't want to turn yourself into a glutton over the weekend, but realize that this seems to happen to almost everybody," said Wansink, who directs Cornell University's Food and Brand Lab in Ithaca, N.Y. **REUTERS**

Mount Sinai Beth Israel Celebrates
American Heart Month

Don't Stress Your Test
Donna Lordi, CNMT
Wednesday, February 5, 2014 – First Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky - Conference Room, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Go Red at Mount Sinai Beth Israel: Health Screenings and Counseling
Friday, February 7, 2014
First Avenue at 16th Street, 2 Dazian Rotunda, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

"Broken Heart Syndrome"
Maurice Rachko, MD
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – First Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky - Conference Room, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Sweetheart CPR: "Love Your Heart"
Thursday, February 13, 2014 – 10 Nathan D. Perlman Place Bernstein Pavilion, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

It's Electric: The Basics Electrophysiology
Preety Chawla, MD
Wednesday, February, 19, 2014
First Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky - Conference Room, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Heart Healthy Day: Health Screenings and Counseling
Friday, February 21, 2014 – 10 Union Square East, 2nd Floor, Conference Rooms 1 & 2, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

African Americans and Heart Disease: What You Need to Know
David James, MD
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – First Avenue at 16th Street, 3 Linsky - Conference Room, 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

Heart Healthy Cooking and Ask the Expert
(Registration is required)
Dennis Finkielstein, MD
Friday, February 28, 2014 – 317 East 17th Street, 8th Floor Fierman Hall, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

For more information, please call **212-420-2806** or visit the Heart Institute's website: **www.BIHeartInstitute.org**

Mount Sinai Beth Israel

'Masked' menace

Researchers uncover cyber spying campaign

A computer security software firm has uncovered what it calls the first cyber espionage campaign believed to be started by a Spanish-speaking country, targeting government agencies, energy companies and activists in 31 countries.

Dubbed "The Mask," the campaign had operated undetected since 2007 and infected more than 380 targets before it stopped last week, Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab said on Monday.

The firm declined to identify the government suspected to be behind the cyber spying, but said it had been most active in Morocco, followed by Brazil, the United Kingdom, France and Spain. **REUTERS**

Poseidon misadventure

Mysterious Greek god held in detention

Lost for centuries, a rare bronze statue of the Greek god Apollo has mysteriously resurfaced in the Gaza Strip, only to be seized by police and vanish almost immediately from view.

Word of the remarkable find has caught the imagination of the world of archaeology, but the police cannot say when the life-sized bronze might re-emerge or where it might be put on display. A local fisherman says he scooped the god from the sea bed last August, and carried it home on a donkey cart, unaware of the significance of his catch. **REUTERS**

Solar flare: US, India in power subsidies flap

Strained relations. The trade disagreement marks the latest tension between the two nations.

The United States plans to take India to the World Trade Organization over the subsidies it gives to its solar power industry, an Indian government source said on Monday, a step that could further strain relations between the countries.

The Indian official said Washington had already informed New Delhi of the planned action.

The United States filed a challenge with the WTO last February over elements of India's national solar program, which it said discriminates against foreign solar products.

It was not immediately clear how Monday's scheduled announcement relates to that action.

The U.S. trade office said last February that India's solar program appears to discriminate against the use of U.S. solar equipment by requiring solar energy producers to use Indian-manufactured solar cells and modules and by offering subsidies to those developers for using domestic equipment instead of imports.

India hit back at the U.S. accusations in April, asking Washington to justify its own incentives offered to U.S. companies that use local labor and products in renewable energy and water projects.

The trade spat between the two allies follows the recent arrest of a female Indian diplomat in New York. **REUTERS**

An Indian worker hoses down solar power cells. / GETTY IMAGES

Bad reputation

India is widely perceived in Washington as a serial trade offender, with U.S. companies unhappy about imports of everything from shrimp to steel pipes they say threaten U.S. jobs.

- There are 14 past or current World Trade Organization cases between India and the U.S., whose bilateral trade measures about $63.7 billion a year.

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Winter Olympics.
Canada picks up two more golds on Day 3

1 Canadian **Alex Bilodeau** was mediocre in his first two finals runs, but stepped up when it mattered to repeat as men's moguls champion.

2 Superstar **Shaun White** soared above the halfpipe yesterday in training ahead of the finals today at 12:30 p.m. Eastern time.

3 **Martin Fourcade** of France started 12 seconds after Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, but tracked down the Norwegian legend to win the 12.5-kilometer biathlon pursuit gold medal.

4 Short-track speed skating got underway on Monday with the men's 1,500-meter race. Canada's **Charles Hamelin** won the country's second gold medal of the games (Bilodeau would later win its third). U.S. skater J.R. Celski finished fourth.

5 The heavily favored Canadian women's hockey team entered the third period tied 0-0 with Finland, but picked up three goals for a 3-0 win.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Medal count

	G	S	B	T
1. Canada	3	3	1	7
Holland	3	2	2	7
Norway	2	1	4	7
4. Russia	1	2	3	6
5. USA	2	0	3	5
6. Austria	1	2	0	3
Czech R.	0	2	1	3
8. Germany	2	0	0	2
France	1	0	1	2
Sweden	0	2	0	2

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4 Tips on slashing your grocery bill

Money. Melissa D'Arabian, the host of Food Network's "Ten Dollar Dinners" shares her tips.

Melissa D'Arabian, host of "Ten Dollar Dinners," might have her hands full with four daughters and a TV show, but she still makes saving money a priority. Here, she shares her top tips.

1 Find your loss leader: D'Arabian says grocery stores will typically offer a "loss leader": a special deal on meat to draw in customers. She suggests looking at the front page of a grocery store flier when deciding where to make your shopping trip. "That's where they're going to put their best protein deals, and then you can decide if you want it or not," she explains. D'Arabian also says it doesn't hurt to grab an extra pack of your favorite proteins when they're on sale to pop in the freezer.

2 Front-load your meal with cheap protein: D'Arabian says an easy way to stretch pricey cuts of meat is to start meals with inexpensive proteins like beans or eggs. She says this is especially useful when serving guests. "If you do a black bean hummus or white bean and tomato bruschetta and people fill up on these nice, fiber and protein-filed gems, they're going to sit down at the table not ravenously hungry," she says. "They're going to naturally eat less and not feel like they got cheated."

3 Buy the cheapest produce: Instead of knowing what fruits and vegetables you want to buy in advance, D'Arabian suggests waiting to see what the best deals are. "Unlike everything else, whatever is cheapest in produce is also what is best," she says. "We think if we spend more money, we'll get something better, but when there's an overstock that pushes prices down, that means it's in season." D'Arabian also says it's key not to turn up your nose at frozen vegetables, which are convenient, nutritious and inexpensive.

Fourth tip

Try a new cut of meat

Boneless, skinless chicken breasts aren't the only source of protein. D'Arabian confesses that she was reluctant to try different cuts of meat until she lived in France and saw people using chicken thighs and legs. "Braising is a great way to extract amazing flavor from the cheapest cuts of meat," she says.

ANDREA PARK
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Melissa D'Arabian has mastered the art of cooking delicious meals with the cheapest items in the grocery store. / PROVIDED

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Personal stats

Kyle Senor-Ocasio

Age: 38
Location: Upper East Side
Lives with: Husband & kids, ages 11, 8 and 6
Number of jobs: 2

"I need to do comedy to keep me sane," Senor-Ocasio says. / KYLE SENOR-OCASIO

Tell me about your two jobs.
My main job is managing a gym, and I also do personal training to make extra money. I usually work at the gym during the week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. My second job is performing comedy Thursday through Saturday, doing two shows each night.

What does your husband do?
He's a personal trainer as well and works until about 9 p.m. When he comes home, that's when I leave to perform comedy.

When did you start working as a trainer?
After I had my second child, my husband's salary just wasn't enough — so I went back to work. When my third child was born, I had to start performing again just for my own sanity. ... Part of the reason I work so hard is necessity, but also so my family can take advantage of the city. I want my daughter to be able to take her hip-hop class. I want to take my son to a Broadway show. That's why we live in New York.

Q&A

Are you happy with the way things are, or are you looking to change your lifestyle?

Overall I am happy, but I'm always looking to improve. I would eventually like to be doing only comedy when my kids get older. Traveling comedians make much more money, so I could travel more and make a living that way.

How does your husband feel about you working two jobs?
He's supportive because we'd be broke if I didn't, but I think sometimes he wishes we had more time together.

Even though you're the one working two jobs, you're still doing most of the care-giving.
Yes. I think many women are put in that position. I'm super ambitious and I'm willing to do whatever it takes. I want to perform comedy, so I come home and make things as easy as possible for my husband so he has no reason to complain.

Do you and your husband ever talk about moving somewhere cheaper than the Upper East Side to save money?
We definitely have thought about it, but we have a pretty good deal on rent. We have a three-bedroom apartment, so two of my kids share a room. It's tight, especially as we're getting older. I wonder how this is going to work out. I don't know if my boys will be 15 and in bunk beds. I'm raising my kids in a small space without a backyard, but we get to live in New York City.

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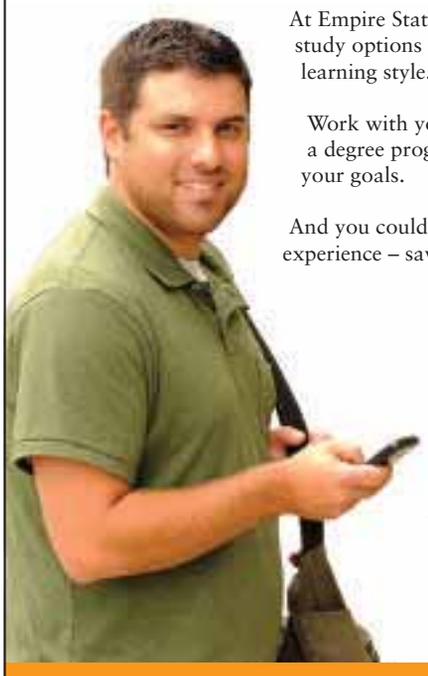

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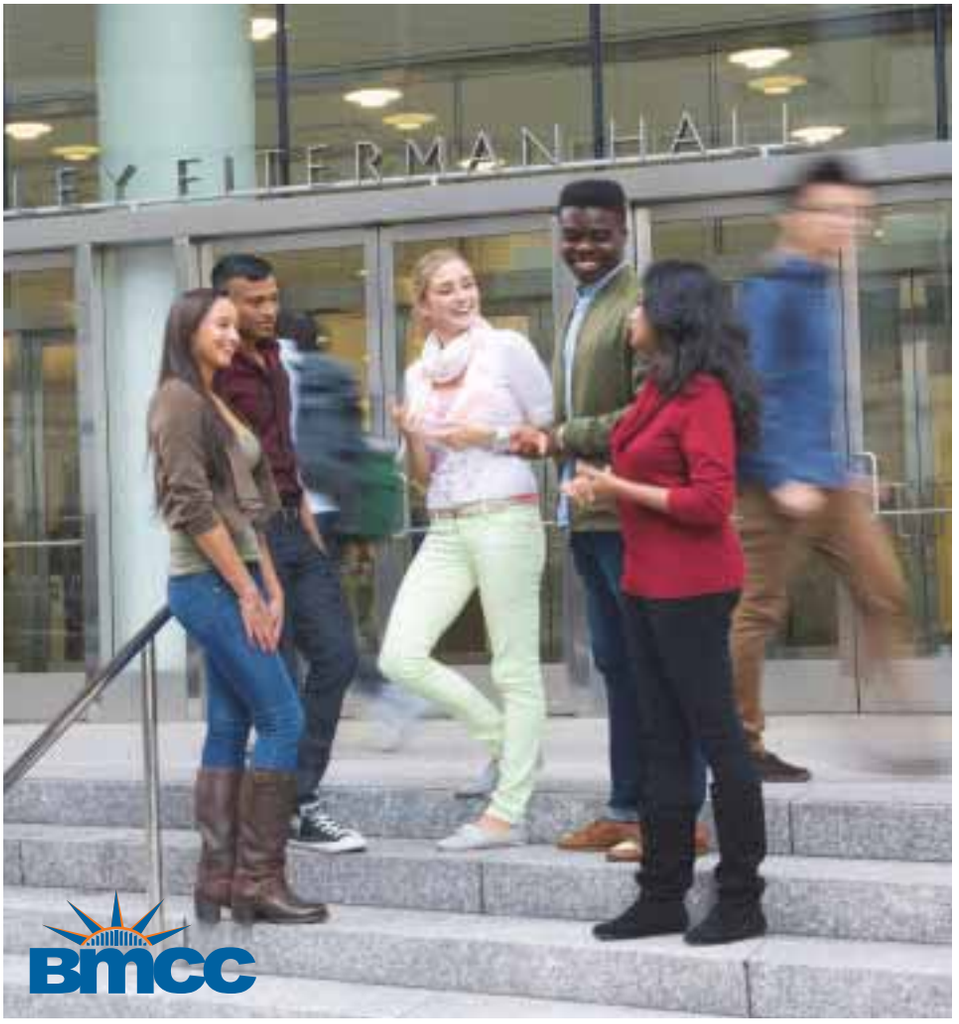

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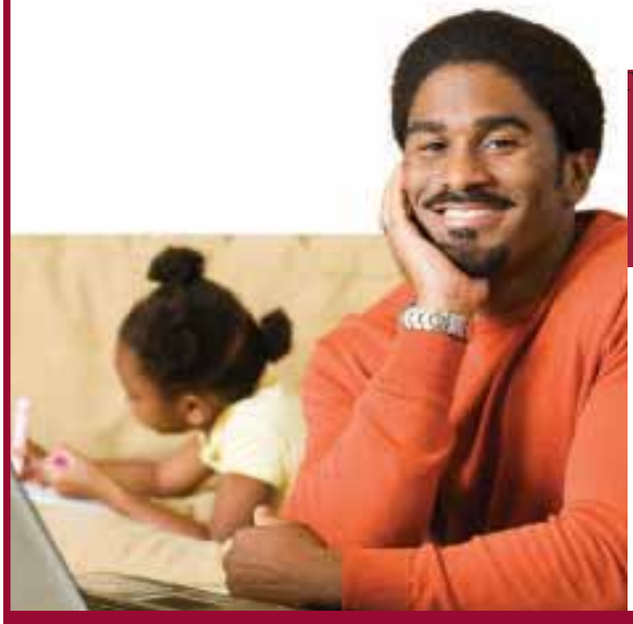

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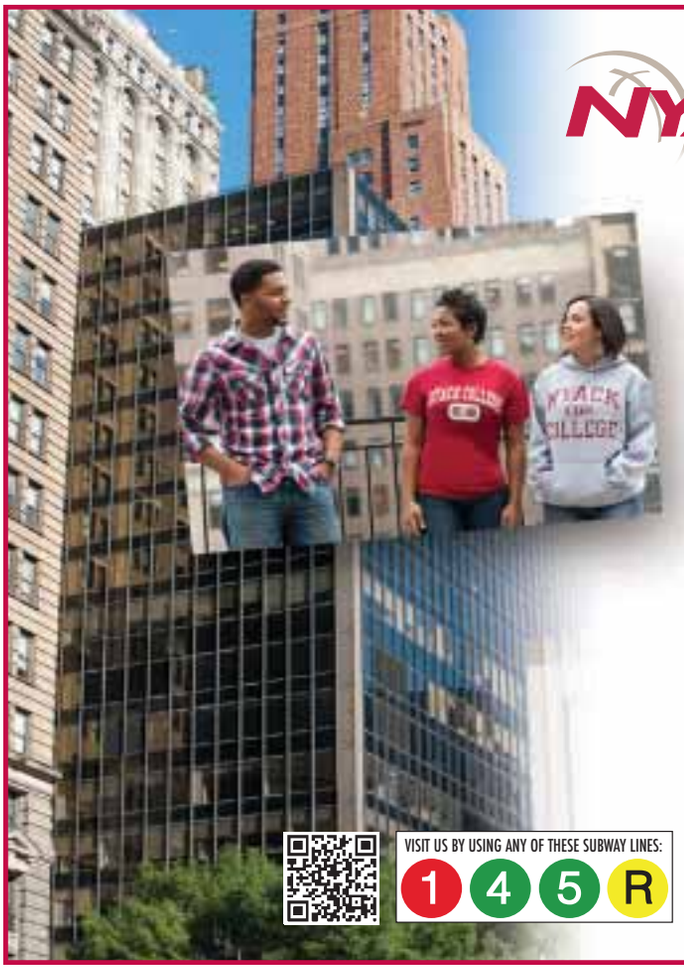

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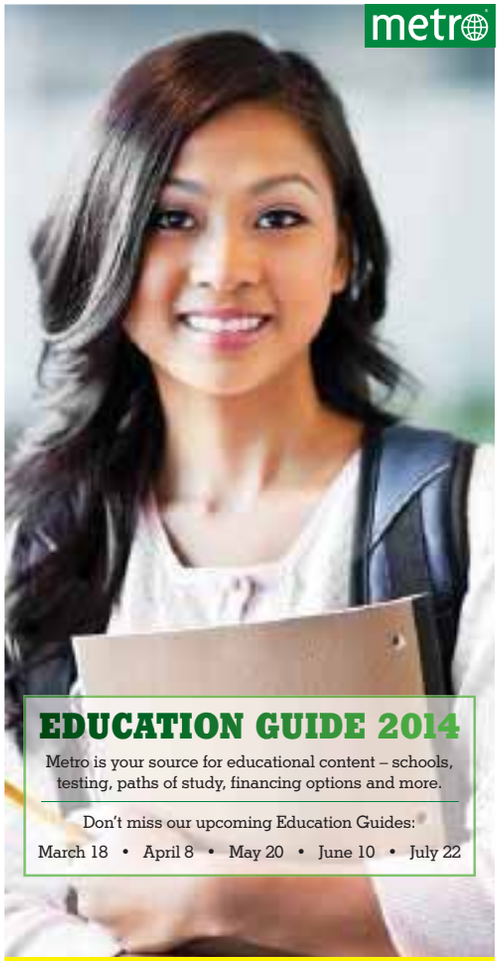
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Master your manners, future MBAs

Schmooze. We talk to an etiquette expert for MBA dos and don'ts.

Don't look sloppy, be nice to your fellow students and greet people with a firm handshake: These simple rules might seem obvious, but they aren't always taught. In her book "The Essentials of Business Etiquette: How to Greet, Eat and Tweet Your Way to Success" author Barbara Pachter gives etiquette advice that can help any MBA get through the program without looking ignorant or unprofessional.

When is it appropriate to tweet your professor?
Usually professors let their students know the best way to reach them, including whether sending a direct message is appropriate. If a professor doesn't say anything, you can always ask.

Is it ever appropriate to friend request your professor on Facebook?
Before you send a request, ask yourself: "Do I really want my professor to read my posts?" Professors will often express their opinions about connecting with their students on social media. [I know] one professor who will only connect on LinkedIn, and only after the semester has ended. My students can like my business Facebook page.

What is the proper way of greeting someone at a business meeting?
The handshake is the proper business greeting. Both men and women should stand when they shake hands.

What should you order at a business lunch?
Remember that the purpose of a business meal is business, not food. Order what you know how to eat, what is easy to eat, and what you like to eat. A business meal is not the time to experiment. Also order something in the mid-price range. If you order the most expensive item, it will look like you are taking advantage.

When applying to MBA programs, what is the best way to reach out to professors you want to work with?
I would send an email to the professor. Use a descriptive subject line to catch the professor's attention. Make sure the message is clear about what you want. Use polite language and eliminate any typos. Include your contact information — including full name and phone number.

How many emails do you send if you don't hear?
Emails do get lost, so I would wait a week or so and then send one more.

LASSE EMIL KRISTIANSEN
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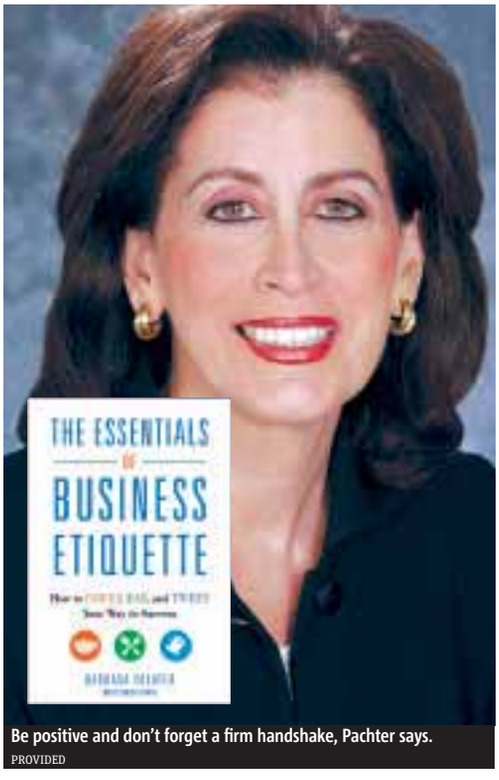

Be positive and don't forget a firm handshake, Pachter says.
PROVIDED

Tips

Don't forget:

- **Have a professional demeanor.** You want to convey a confident and credible image. Be aware of your verbal and nonverbal communication. Are you speaking too softly or loudly? Dress appropriately.
- **Show initiative and convey enthusiasm.** Go above and beyond. Offer to help others. Be proactive. Try new or better ways to accomplish your studies/work. Give sincere compliments.
- **Be friendly and upbeat.** People don't like to be around others who ignore them. Smile and make an effort to greet people. Say "hello" to people. Speak well of others, avoid downbeat topics and don't be critical on social media.

The Norwegians wear technicolor dream pants.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Sochi: What people are talking about besides the medal count

Olympics! The fame, the glory — the curling pants?

Medals schmedals, y'all. Who cares who is winning what when there are funny pants involved, specifically those worn by the Norwegian curling team. The team first made a fashion splash in Vancouver in 2010 by donning the vibrant gear, made by Loudmouth Golf, and now they are continuing the tradition in Sochi. A Facebook page honoring their outlandish trousers — called The Pants Army — has racked up more than 545,000 followers. They wear a different pair for each game — and are single-handedly keeping the sport of curling interesting.

Meanwhile, Johnny Quinn, the U.S. bobsledder who went viral a few days ago after he tweeted a photo of having to break down his stuck bathroom door, found himself trapped again, this time in an elevator. "No one is going to believe this," he wrote, "but we just got stuck in an elevator." Quinn was with teammate Nick Cunningham and USA Bobsled technical director David Cripps at the time. Cripps couldn't resist tweeting a joke. "Now we're stuck in the elevator! Can [Quinn] get us out?"

And last, but not least, is poor Bob Costas, who is suffering from pink eye and is being forced to wear glasses. The debacle has its own hashtags (#saveBobCostaseye, #pinkisthenewblack) and its own Twitter handle (@BobCostasEyes).

More memes, please

Sochi problems

Well, that was quick. New York City designer Michael Miller (@mychelmiller) has created this #sochiproblems T-shirt that shows off the laughably tragic Olympic ring malfunction from Friday's opening ceremony. It'll set you back $22.95, which is probably the yearly salary of the poor Russian lighting technician who was in charge of making sure all of the rings appeared, and who is now having a nice "vacation" in Siberia.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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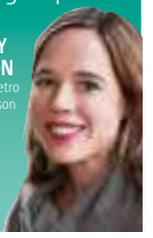


Talking point

Meet the poet, Kristen Stewart

Kristen Stewart reveals to Marie Claire that instead of throwing herself into film work following her breakup with Robert Pattinson, she spent most of 2013 taking road trips with friends, working on her poetry and discovering things about herself — like the fact that she doesn't necessarily have a type. "You don't know who you will fall in love with. You just don't. You don't control it," she says. Another thing she's learned? It's OK to not be good at being a celebrity. "I'm just not very good on TV, and it's not my main goal in life to get good at it."

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

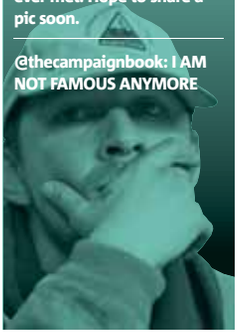
Today, Russell Brand likes to play it safe, Steve Carell isn't feeling too well, Jerry Bruckheimer is making new friends and Shia LaBeouf is still trying to get his point across.

@rustyrockets: In Berlin tonight joking about Hitler.

@SteveCarell: So far this year I have had Olympic Fever, World Series Strep Throat, and Superbowl Diarrhea.

@BRUCKHEIMERJB: Had dinner with President Jimmy Carter last week. Great humanitarian and one of the nicest people I've ever met. Hope to share a pic soon.

@thecampaignbook: I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE



Spotted: Front row at New York Fashion Week

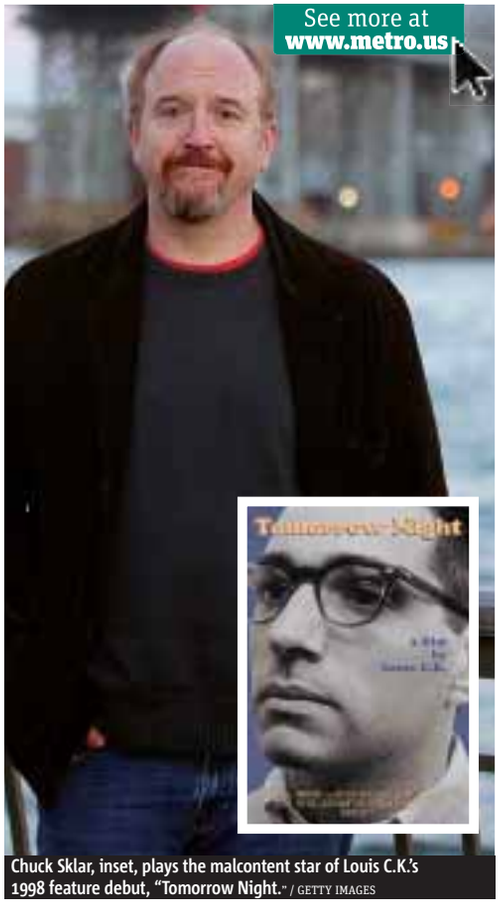
1 **Browne Andrews** and **Kimberly Chandler** smile at Thakoon on Saturday.

2 **Nigel Barker, Coco Rocha, Solange Knowles** and **Leigh Lezark** attend the Noon By Noor show on Monday.

3 Beauties! **Tina Fey** and **Dita Von Teese** pose at the Carolina Herrera show on Monday.

4 **Anna Wintour** graces Tommy Hilfiger on Monday.

5 **Kelly Rowland** stands tall at Opening Ceremony on Sunday.



Chuck Sklar, inset, plays the malcontent star of Louis C.K.'s 1998 feature debut, "Tomorrow Night." / GETTY IMAGES

We all start somewhere

Online. Louis C.K. released his feature debut from 1998 on his site. It's very strange and revealing.

It took a long time for the mainstream to come around to Louis C.K. Before his hit FX show, "Louie," he was tied to a string of commercial failures. No one watched his first TV show, the anti-sitcom "Lucky Louie," and the 2001 meta satire "Pootie Tang" became a punchline, loved only by a precious few who got on its strange wavelength. (It's worth noting he was very successful working with Chris Rock and Robert Smigel, as well as the writing staff of "Saturday Night Live.")

At 46, he can finally do whatever he wants. "Louie" is a full-on auteur project, which he writes, directs, edits and stars in, tackling whatever odd subjects he likes. He can even grant new life to works that once met with chilly indifference.

Recently, he made "Tomorrow Night," his feature directorial debut, available on his website. It premiered at Sundance in 1998, but was unable to secure a distributor. Now anyone can download it for $5, and many probably will — because it's a film by Louis C.K., whose every vulgar utterance goes viral.

"Tomorrow Night" might deserve a condescending appraisal, concluding it's a sign of greatness to come, but little else. Designed to be off-putting, it's a black-and-white 16mm character study of Charles (Chuck Sklar), a loner who owns a photo store. He's young but has the cantankerous attitude of a man thrice his age. By day he gives the cold shoulder to his scant clientele; by night he engages in a wacky sexual fetish involving ice cream.

That last bit is the most notable — but not only — example of the broad, even juvenile tendencies C.K. got out of his system with "Tomorrow Night." But his detached, bemused view of human misery was always there. Charles is never likable, and only briefly suggests a melancholy undertone. C.K. orchestrates for him to fall for an older woman (Martha Greenhouse). That may make it sound quirky-indie, but this isn't "Harold and Maude." She's no free spirit, but a slightly batty whiner. Their courtship isn't terribly romantic or exciting. ("I find your tidiness to be appealing," is Charles' version of a come-on.) Moreover, it doesn't go the way one would imagine.

Throughout the film runs a passion for the underground New York City cinema of the 1960s and its resurgence in the '70s and '80s, which he filters through a late-'90s smart-ass comic sensibility. The shots are grainy and immobile, held a few beats too long. It's part Jim Jarmusch's "Stranger Than Paradise," part "Eraserhead."

Like "Pootie Tang," it's the work of a smart and aware artist actively antagonizing the audience. The anticipated day upon which C.K. would no longer care who he was making his work for seems to have arrived.

Review

'Tomorrow Night'

Director: Louis C.K.

Stars: Chuck Sklar, Martha Greenhouse

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The sweet and the sour: Books for Valentine's Day

Feel the love with these non-cheesy books about relationships.

EMILY LAURENCE
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You can try to ignore the abundance of pink and red and heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, but Valentine's Day is still happening. Whether you're coupled up, happily single or not-so-happily single, this Hallmark holiday can make you even more aware of your relationship status. No matter what it is, there are four new books that will have you feeling the love. And no, none are self-help books because you're perfect just the way you are.

For the perpetually single

1 'Never Have I Ever: My Life (So Far) Without a Date'

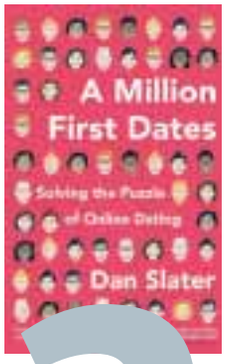
By Katie Heaney

Twenty-five-year-old Katie Heaney has never had a boyfriend. Not only has she never had a boyfriend, she's never been on a second date. There's nothing "wrong" with her: She's pretty, has a cool job, knows how to carry a conversation. It just hasn't happened for her. But her memoir is far from a woe-is-me story. You'll laugh right along with her as she decodes Facebook messages, mulls over the continuous advice from her friends and survives the awkwardest of awkward moments.

For the OkCupid addict

2 'A Million First Dates'

By Dan Slater



Whether you're on Tinder, eHarmony or one of the other myriad dating sites, you'll connect with this book. Writer Dan Slater takes readers behind the scenes of the online dating world, interviewing the curators of the sites about how their values play into their match-making. He also explores the money-making side of the industry, since it is a business after all, and a big one at that. Most interestingly, Slater examines how modern dating has changed our thoughts about the meaning of love, fate and commitment. If anything, it's great fodder for your next meetup.

For women who've lost faith in men

3 'The Last Girlfriend on Earth: And Other Love Stories'

By Simon Rich

Simon Rich's collection of stories about his experiences with teenage and grown-up love will have you feeling his pain and rejoicing in his small triumphs. It serves as a good reminder that guys get their hearts broken too, and in the end we all want the same thing: to be loved.

If you just got married

4 'The Longest Date: Life as a Wife'

By Cindy Chupack

Former "Sex and the City" writer Cindy Chupack chronicles her early years of wifedom, spinning everyday arguments and happenings into comical, relatable tales. More sobering, she talks about her struggles with infertility and longing to have a child, which really gives this book its heart.

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Love lessons from 'Modern Love' editor Daniel Jones

Valentine's Day. New York Times editor Daniel Jones reveals what he's learned after 10 years of editing the "Modern Love" column.

Though he says he doesn't have all the answers to love's big questions, Daniel Jones has learned a thing or two about the subject, which he's sharing in his new book, "Love Illuminated." In honor of Valentine's Day, we called up Jones and got him to reveal some of the biggest love lessons he's learned after reading the roughly 50,000 stories that have landed in his in-box.

If the idea of dating overwhelms you, get offline. "There's this belief that the more people you meet or go out with, the more chance you have of finding that one special person," Jones says. "But from what I've seen, people have much better luck starting with a small group instead of searching for that perfect person within dozens and dozens." Jones tells us that even with the popularity of online dating, people are still falling in love the same ways as in the past: by meeting people through friends, work or hobbies. "Less is more," he says. "Go on a trip with a small group of people or join a club based on your interests."

If whenever you meet someone great you still have the sneaking suspicion that someone even better is out there, Jones again makes the case against online dating. "Everything about online dating is encouraging you to seek perfection. ... Someone you fall for in real life may be the least likely person you'd choose if you saw him or her online," he says.

Recognize the difference between a sign and coincidence. One thing Jones has noticed is that even though finding love is getting more mathematical and scientific, people are grasping to signs of fate more than ever. So how do you know if something is truly a "sign" that you've found the perfect person? "A sign is meaningful if it says something about you or what you want in a relationship," Jones says. Sharing the same birthday or having a random friend in common doesn't say anything about you; it's just a coincidence.

There's no substitute for physical chemistry. While not doubting the emotional bonds that can be made online, Jones warns it doesn't always translate into physical chemistry. "Sharing your deepest emotions online feels so close, but it's not," he says. "It's a controlled relationship that only exists in one narrow area. A real relationship involves the whole person."

EMILY LAURENCE
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Meet the author

Daniel Jones

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
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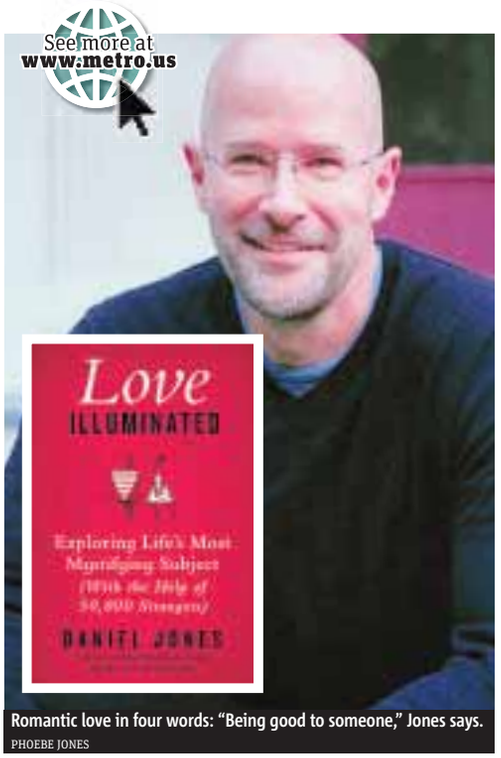

Romantic love in four words: "Being good to someone," Jones says.
PHOEBE JONES

Love in pieces

Fragmented relationships can be fulfilling, but not forever

"In the dating world, it's easy to break yourself up into pieces and have sex with someone without caring about that person and then have a really deep connection with someone you don't have sex with," Jones says. And it isn't always a bad thing; it just shows you aren't ready to be in a full relationship. "When you're in school, in your first job or your 20s, not everyone wants the responsibility of a full relationship," he explains. But if you do want the real thing, you have to give it your all.

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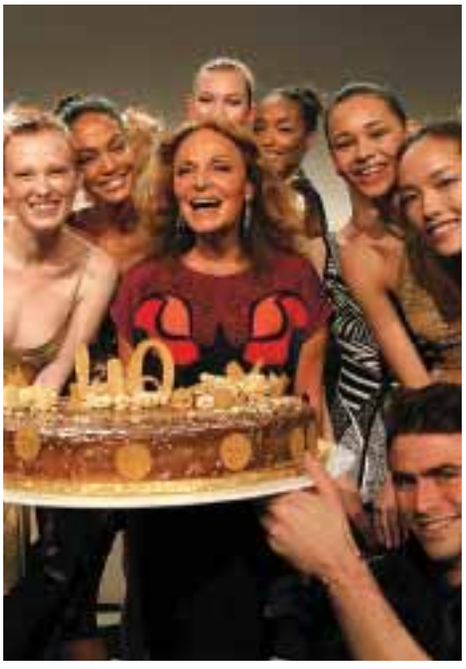
NYFW: Tommy

PLUS

Runway report

Altuzarra

When the multi-colored plaid mink jacket walked down the runway at Altuzarra, the air in the room just changed. I feel like I've just had a B12 shot. iPhones go up, backs straighten and heads lean in. The coat is that good. And its the polar opposite of all the boring black and gray showgoers have been wearing this week. Joseph Altuzarra should consider working with brights more often; the colors give the clothes energy and an element of the unexpected that was frankly missing before.



Diane Von Furstenberg

Happy anniversary, Diane von Furstenberg! The fashion vet's fall outing celebrated 40 years of her iconic wrap dress. Titled "Bohemian Wrapsody," the show kicked off with Karen Elson in a black-and-gold art deco printed version of the piece-of-honor before transitioning into a series of Seventies-inspired separates. There were gorgeous prints, lady-like silhouettes and a closing hit parade of sparkly gold cocktail dresses. Have a fab party to attend? Now you know what to wear. **TINA CHADHA**

Opening Ceremony

Sure, Carol Lim and Humberto Leon showed a sleek collection of looks that were mostly covered up on top (button-down white shirts with snuggly boyish sweaters, high neck puffer jackets, cocoon coats) and all leg on the bottom (asymmetrical hemlines, quilted minis and pencil skirts with slashes cut out at the thigh.) But all anyone talked about was the chocolate wall. Yes, you read that correctly. Opening Ceremony topped last year's cronut giveaway by setting its runway against a backdrop that spewed warm chocolate. Luckily showgoers didn't have to just smell the intoxicating treat — that would be cruel. Team OC handed out boxes of Belgian bon bons as well. **TC**

Tommy Hilfiger
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The designer

Tommy Hilfiger

- **The scene:** The street style crowd outside the show borders on ridiculous with one security guard yelling at a peacock posing in traffic, "That picture won't look so good when you get hit by a car." #Truth
- **Major trends:** Blanket references in the form of dresses, skirts and coats
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Durable, classic winter wear that really does marry fashion and function

Fashion week diary

Follow our editors' diaries as they take you behind the scenes of NYFW.

Saturday

3:15 p.m.
Every show always has a star, that one piece that rules Instagram and, later, magazine editorial pages. At **Thakoon** that magic piece would be a multi-colored striped Poncho. It's cropped, falling just above the elbow, and comes worn over a long knit sweater and breezy, knee-length skirt. So chic, long and lithe. But how does one wear it and successfully do things like, say, move an arm? Other versions of the poncho look more functional; there's a looser-fitting black one with floral trim that would make the coziest office warmer. Layering seems to be the standout story here, with sweaters nonchalantly draped around the models' necks and shoulders. Thakoon has managed to make the concept look lean and elegant, stripping it of any poundage adding bulkiness. Even his puffer coats (so pretty in florals) look slimming. **KENYA HUNT**

Sunday

11:20 a.m.
Lela Rose's inspiration is ... molecular gastronomy, which is just too much to process right now.

11:25 a.m.
A sigh of relief as we realize that LR's designs are not nearly as mind-boggling as the cuisine that inspired them. An easy checked boucle suit opens the show, followed by striped knit dresses, tweed trousers and mohair coats. And then there's the parade of flouncy organza and chiffon frocks — one, a gold-dusted floral gazar gown with a full skirt and train, screams Kerry Washington. A few of the motifs felt a little stale — enough with the peek-a-boo black lace and peplums already — but Lela Rose has never been about reinventing the wheel, and much of this pretty, uncomplicated collection felt just right for a Sunday morning. **RAQUEL LANERI**

12:10 p.m.
Derek Lam's easy, nuanced dresses, oversized coats and separates stand in polar opposition to the peacock shows that have been happening outside Lincoln Center all week. They have a subtlety that nonetheless packs impact, whether it's the green

Hilfiger takes us to the slopes

Thakoon

The designer

Thakoon

- **The scene:** Editors looking for an afternoon caffeine/energy fix. Luckily the clothes did that. And Liz Goldwyn, Kimberly Chandler and Nina Garcia are here.
- **The major trends:** Layering, saturated colors and long, lean silhouettes

neckline on a simple gray-and-white color-blocked tee or the curved line of a sleeve on a jacket. Minimalism can get boring really fast. But Derek's breathed life into the idea by jazzing up his simple shapes with unexpected textures (a mesh dress worn over a pencil skirt, for example, and a slip dress made of swatches of satin pieced together with gold beads), which is what makes the clothes look so unique. **KH**

12:45 p.m.
After hitching a ride with some editor friends being chauffeured around in a blue Bentley (score!) I've arrived at **DKNY** a bit early. So I have a look at the press notes, which emphasize that the collection, called New York Mash Up, will be about "old school/new school," "chic with street" and "real people/real style."

1:15 p.m.
People are cheering. That never

Lela Rose

The designer

Lela Rose

- **The scene:** Sleepy, hungover, ready for Fashion Week to be over.
- **The major trends:** graphic prints, checks, jewel tones
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Don't worry: You won't need to buy anything new!

happens. Runway shows are generally serious affairs filled with poker-faced models and fashionistas. But here, Donna Karan and team have replaced the usual waif-y mannequins with a mix of artists, writers, DJs, performers and girls about town — Angel Haze, A$AP Illz and Hannah Bronfman are getting the loudest woo-hoos — to drive home the collection's "real people/real style" theme. The "models" are all so diverse and United Colors of Benetton-y with their perfectly high cheekbones, mussed fros, artfully dyed hair and elaborate tattoo sleeves. When did "real" New York become so pretty?

But we're here to talk about the clothes, and it's frankly nice to see them on a wider range of bodies. The collection is built around black — that classic New York go-to color — with a few graphic moments of white, navy, pink, gray and yellow mixed in. What stands out is how edgy the

Derek Lam

The designer

Derek Lam

- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** This collection made a good argument for giving your inner trendy magpie a rest and investing in a more understated, timeless look instead.

See more at www.metro.us

clothes have become. Five years ago, I associated DKNY with cute dresses for that entry-level job. But the collection has evolved to a place that feels a little more left-of-center, cooler and in tune with the brand's streetwear roots. Standouts include the range of outerwear such as a fur-sleeved parka and a series of graphic, striped shearling coats. **KH**

6:15 p.m.
Now, here's something you don't normally see in a **Kaelen** collection: pink. Lots of it. I sneak a peek backstage before showtime and am confronted with a sea of pretty pastels and flouncy fashions. A very different direction for this slightly androgynous label.

7:25 p.m.
The space is industrial, gritty, with a small runway plunked down in

DKNY

The designer

DKNY

- **The major trends:** Sporty sweats, pink, contrasting textures, blanket layering and shaggy outerwear
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** All the sporty looks you've bought have at least another season or two left in them.

the middle and no chairs. (This is an indie label, people.) Designer Kaelen Haworth has recently won a spot in the CFDA's Fashion Incubator program, which is devoted to nourishing young NYC fashion labels. Expectations are high.

7:30 p.m.
Despite all the ruffles, which adorn everything from tops (creating a sort of faux peplum) to pant legs (offering a flirty take on the tuxedo stripe), elements of the collection exhibit a newfound swagger. Witness the swinging red mohair jacket worn with a pink fur stole.

"I felt a little girly and romantic," says the Canadian designer afterward, though she maintains that she wanted to keep the collection from veering too far into the hypertension ins. "The ruffles are detachable," she says.

Monday

The designer

Kaelen

- **The major trends:** Pink, ruffles, mohair
- **What this means for you wardrobe:** Embrace your inner girly-girl!

Kaelen

11:16 a.m.
Solange!!! The singer, looking predictably fabulous, stands next to model Coco Rocha at **Noon by Noor**. Fashion reality show heartthrob Nigel Barker joins them. The photogs — and the crowd — go crazy.

11:25 a.m.
On the runway we see a ladylike voluminous coat (in neoprene, interesting!), a minty pouf skirt, crystal-embellished white blouses, diaphanous cascading chiffon gowns, icy hues mixed with soft mauve, burgundy and vanilla. This is all very pretty, but ... all so very safe. **RL**

11:10 a.m.
Cue a round-up of Instagrams with captions that say things like "apres-chic." The Park Avenue Armory has been transformed into an Alpine village with snow capped mountains and pine trees, which make a fitting

The designer

Noon by Noor

- **The major trends:** Crystals, statement coats, an icy palette, contrasting textures.
- **What this will mean for your wardrobe:** Don't be afraid to mix chiffon and neoprene, or precious crystal embroidery with leather.

backdrop for the tartan plaid that surfaces in every **Tommy Hilfiger** collection.

11:35 p.m.
The first look? Surprise surprise, it's plaid. An olive parka, check dress and hiking boots opens the lineup of rugged, outdoorsy looks. The clothes are steeped in Americana; these aren't St. Moritz snow bunnies. Instead, the vaguely vintage-flavored duffle coats, shearling jackets, chunky sweaters, fair isle knits and fleece dresses have a sporty athleticism to them that imply Tommy's girls do more than sip hot chocolate inside a lodge. The mix of mountaineering and country Western references work well, giving his sportswear a sense of newness and taking it away from his usual collegiate territory. You have to give him credit for reinventing his trademarks season after season. And it doesn't get more classic Hilfiger than this. **KH**

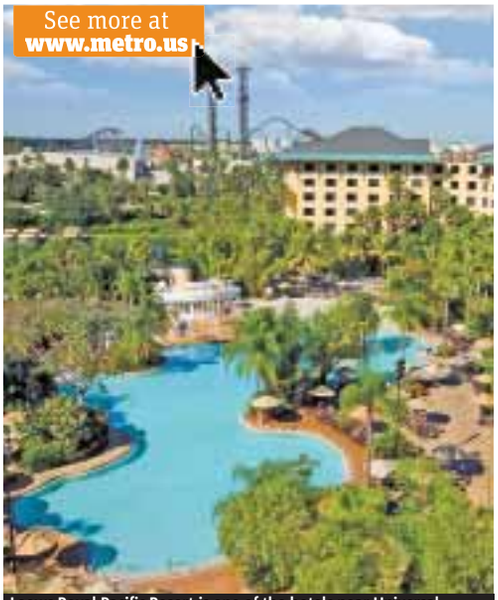
PLUS

Don't be a muggle

Harry Potter does Orlando

This summer, Universal Orlando Resort will open its long-awaited Diagon Alley expansion of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter. The new whimsically-themed area will double the size of the sweeping zone already dedicated to Potter's enchanting world, bringing even more of the boy wizard's adventures to life.

By land and by sea



Loews Royal Pacific Resort is one of the hotels near Universal Orlando Resort. Visit www.royalcaribbean.com/finacruise for booking details. / UNIVERSAL

Skip the mouse. Royal Caribbean makes Universal Orlando Resort its new port of call for family fun.

The idea of a family vacation often evokes anxious visions straight out of a "National Lampoon" film. But not all trips with the kids have to put stress on parents, or cater only to the little critters.

As part of Royal Caribbean International's collaboration with Universal Orlando Resort, vacationers of all ages can spend 10 days getting the best adventures of both land and sea.

The cruise package starts off with a few days at Universal Orlando Resort, followed by a week of island-hopping through the Caribbean aboard the Freedom of the Seas cruise ship.

Thrill rides like Transformers: The Ride, Despicable Me: Minion Mayhem and The Simpsons Ride are just a few of the ways to keep the adrenaline going during your time at Universal.

Included in the package and just steps from the park, Loews Royal Pacific Resort offers a lavish but family-friendly option for on-land accommodations in a lush, South Seas-themed environment that really prepares sea-bound travelers for the next leg of their journey.

The vacation then sweeps guests to Freedom of the Seas, a luxurious ship that departs from Port Canaveral and offers a plethora of pools, bars, restaurants, theater, casinos, shopping and, perhaps most importantly, well-managed child care.

The day care and nursery keeps kids of all ages amused with games, crafts and activities from early morning into the evening, and is included in the cost of the cruise.

The vacation wraps up with a stop in colorful St. Maarten, which has no shortage of gift shops and eateries just steps from the ship.

Overall, the action-packed vacation is sure to send a jolt of sunny adrenaline to the hearts of youngsters and kids-at-heart as they are whisked away from the humdrum of everyday life.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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On the waves

Make a splash!

Freedom of the Seas makes a stop in CocoCay, Royal Caribbean's private island destination, which features one of the Bahamas' largest water parks. Daredevils can brave a 40-story drop on one of the world's largest inflatable water slides.

Freedom offers a variety of indoor activities for all ages, including a 3-D movie theater, indoor skating rink Studio B and the Arcadia Theater, where musicals, comedy and magic shows are all included in the cruise fare.

Family-friendly discos evolve into adults-only venues late at night, while the On Air Club karaoke bar gives any songbird's voice a chance to soar.

The Freedom of the Seas will tour you around the Caribbean. / PROVIDED

Pretty sights

A one-day jaunt in St. Thomas

The Freedom cruise ship also stops in balmy St. Thomas, but because cruisers only get one day on the island, any excursions should be planned ahead of time. The glass-bottom Kon Tiki Sightseeing and Beach Cruise is a must for anyone looking to get a glimpse of historic St. Thomas Harbor. With a stop over a coral reef, the excursion peaks with a swimming excursion on a white sand beach, and winds down with dancing, party games and a limbo contest. The beach cruise offers onboard lunch options and plenty of island-inspired rum drinks for the grown-ups.

See beautiful St. Thomas on your voyage. / PROVIDED

Now renting on HomeAway.com

Cozy cabin in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Looking for a place to take your sweetheart on Valentine's Day? HomeAway has hundreds of rentals for the perfect romantic weekend getaway to rekindle that flame, like this darling "Bear Naked" cabin in Gatlinburg, Tenn. This secluded home in the beautiful Tennessee mountains features a cozy bedroom and living area with a fully equipped kitchen. But perhaps the most exciting feature is the heart-shaped hot tub — ideal for a romantic, bubbly soak with your one-and-only. Rates for this one-bedroom, one-bath cabin start at just $70/night, so you'll have a little extra to spend on chocolates, roses and wine. Search rental ID #334128 for more information on this listing or to check out other Valentine's rentals.

SNUGGLE UP IN A CABIN IN TENNESSEE. /PROVIDED

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let's stay together
HomeAway, Inc. is the world's leading online marketplace for the vacation rental industry.

Parenting with earbuds

Most of the opinions you hear about your parenting techniques you didn't want to hear in the first place. But here are three (free!) podcasts that offer advice, insight and — most importantly — the knowledge that you're not the only one bribing and Hail Mary-ing your way through it all. **JULIA FURLAN**

'The Longest Shortest Time'

Billing itself as a "3 a.m. bedside companion for new parents," this show is smart, funny and held together by heartrending, beautifully told stories. Writer, mom and radio producer Hillary Frank generates segments that bring out the best in both parents and audio production. It's good for your brain and your heart.
Listen when: Everyone else is asleep and you don't want to feel alone.

'Mom and Dad Are Fighting'

Slate magazine is a power player in the podcast game, tapping the quintessential intellectuals that roam its halls (and its website) with shows like the Culture Gabfest, the feminist XX Gabfest and the sports podcast that's not just for jocks, Hang Up and Listen. Their new parenting podcast has editors and contributors Allison Benedikt and Dan Kois discussing the latest in parenting news, along with smart guests who share their parenting fails or triumphs. Press download on this one before you have a lot to catch up on.
Listen when: You've had your coffee.

'Manic Mommies'

Laughing at the trials of parenting is a huge part of making the unpleasant moments bearable — which is why working moms Erin Kane and Kristin Brandt have segments like "What's on My Clothes This Week." With banter that rounds out solid advice on everything from planning a financial future to dealing with angsty teens, they fearlessly go forth into "having it all," supported by their active community and fans.
Listen when: You're bunching the 6 millionth sock from the laundry pile or you're tuning out an Xbox-related spat.

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A talk with Ernie of 'Sesame Street Live'

For the kids. Danny Mendoza, who plays Ernie in "Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music" reveals secrets from the show.

Promising your kids the opportunity to see Elmo, Bert, Ernie and the rest of the gang in person will get you good behavior for a lifetime. Or at least a week. We get the lowdown on the new production of "Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music" from actor Danny Mendoza, who plays Ernie.

If you go

'Sesame Street Live'

Feb. 13 - Feb. 23
The Theater at Madison Square Garden, 4 Pennsylvania Plaza, 212-465-MSG1 (6741), www.theateratmsg.com

How long have you been playing Ernie and what do you love about it?
This is my second season as Ernie. I love entertaining people and playing Ernie is really fun for me. He's a jokester and doesn't take anything too seriously. I can really relate to that.

What is the musical about?
The story of the show is about our new neighbor, Jenny. She's a music teacher but she can't find her instruments. The whole premise is that we find household items to make music, like a trash can lid, shoes. Anything a kid would find to make music with, that's what we make music with. ... Parents are often curious how the production functions. We don't talk as the voices; the voices are the actual voices from the show. We do that to keep it genuine.

Kids go crazy when they see Bert and Ernie start dancing. / COURTESY OF VEE CORPORATION

What made you want to perform for kids instead of adults?
I like that we can connect with the parents and the kids. Every generation has something to look forward to when they come to the show. But the kids absolutely love it. I love seeing them dancing and jumping around all over the place. Kids don't really know what to expect when they come. Then, they see us all dancing and they get really into it. My favorite scene is a disco song. Bert comes out in a John Travolta outfit and the kids just go crazy.

Do you come out and meet the kids after the show?
We actually have an event called Sunny Seats, which happens an hour before the show. The kids get to have their picture taken with Elmo and another character will come out to see the kids, too. Sometimes it will be me, sometimes Bert, Big Bird or Cookie Monster. It's a great, interactive experience for the whole family.

How do kids normally act when they meet you as Ernie?
Some are really starstruck and scared. Others come right up to me and give me a big hug. A lot of kids come to the show dressed up as their favorite "Sesame Street" character.

"Sesame Street" the TV show is such a celebrity magnet. Is there a celebrity appearance you liked in particular?
I loved the Katy Perry episode where she's singing with Elmo. When I was little, I remember an episode with Gloria Estefan and another one with Debbie Harry. Those both really stuck out to me.

EMILY LAURENCE
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Horoscope

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Step back from stressful situations. By putting your thoughts in order, you will find it easier to get back on the right track.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Ensure that you have all the tools required to make your ideas reality. If you get out and socialize, you'll be admired for your unique contributions.

Aries | March 21-April 20. Apply yourself diligently, and communicate. Misunderstandings will develop if others feel you are neglecting your duties.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Plan short trips to new locations. Interesting conversations will develop as you share your knowledge with acquaintances.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. Take stock of your financial situation. It may be necessary to make a change. An opportunity to improve your earning potential will develop.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. Lighten up and have some fun. Organize an entertainment with old friends. They will welcome the chance to share in your sparkling wit.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Be wary of people trying to coerce you. Stand your ground, even if it means walking away from your friend.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. New connections can be made through groups or interests that you pursue. The approval you receive for your contributions will bring results.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Treat yourself to some personal pleasures. Take a walk, settle down with a good book or listen to your favorite music.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Don't be afraid to seek advice from people who can provide you with valuable information. Your intuition and memory are both highlighted today.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Watch your expenses. Ignore people who try to persuade you to overspend on items you don't need.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Your heightened emotions may get out of control today. Keep your expectations realistic. Don't cause problems by forging ahead. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

1		4			7			
2		6	1				9	3
			2	6				
8					3		6	
	6		7	1	2		8	
	5		4					9
				7	5			
5	1				8	2		6
			9			4		8

		7	3	5			8	
				6	8		3	4
						1	9	
6						8	5	7
			5		6			
5	8	9						6
	5	8						
9	6		7	3				
	1			4	2	5		

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

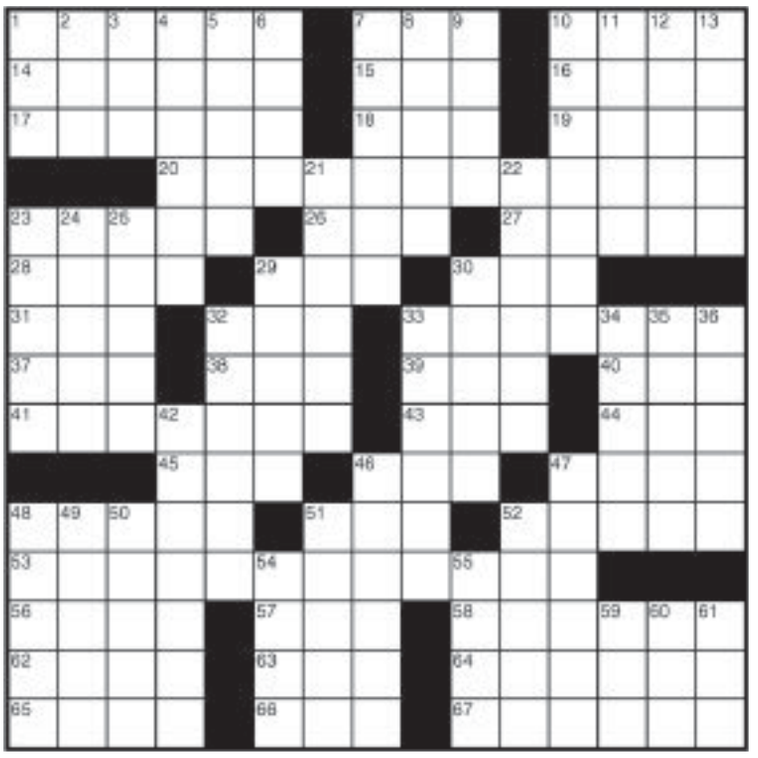
Across

1 High standards
7 Maple sugar source
10 Spring beer
14 Rock band crew member
15 Grandson, perhaps
16 Dash
17 Tried hard
18 911 staffer
19 Dog food brand
20 Big picture (2 wds.)
23 Took on cargo
26 Hot time in Quebec
27 Wolfish looks
28 Monsieur's islands
29 Youth org.
30 Earth orbiter of yore
31 Toss
32 Dernier —
33 Soft leather
37 "Just as I thought!"
38 Thing, in law
39 Ignored a diet
40 Cash substitute
41 Where baby rides (2 wds.)
43 "— be an honor!"
44 Business suff.
45 Wool cap
46 — Enterprise
47 Minor setback
48 Thompson and Bovary
51 Four quarters
52 Not chic
53 Subtle menace (2 wds.)
56 If not
57 Melodrama shout
58 Lubricate
62 Makes after taxes
63 Prefix for "classic"
64 Hippodromes
65 Kind of pilot
66 "Indiana Jones" artifact
67 Ball of fire

Down

1 CPA employer
2 Pixel
3 Play it by —
4 Sun-dried bricks
5 Very angry
6 Tea-leaves reader
7 Afternoon nap
8 "La Dolce Vita" actress
9 Crying shame
10 Furry engineers
11 Stan's partner
12 Escapade
13 Feels certain
21 Stop it
22 Omitted syllables
23 Soft purple
24 Luau welcome
25 Preclude
29 Sunfish
30 Catchers' gloves
32 Wrinkle
33 Crusty roll
34 Drying ovens
35 Greek vowels
36 Poke
42 Mustiest
46 Detach
47 Glossy fabric
48 Marathon, e.g.
49 Confused fight
50 Light drizzles
51 Last box to check
52 Deflect a blow
54 Lady of Spain
55 Major Hoople's word
59 Santa — winds
60 Mr. Houston
61 Anka's "— Beso"

Yesterday's answer



Letters

Say anything (unless you're Palestinian)

Re: 'Reports on Kerry not balanced' (Metro, Feb. 10) Letter writer Daniel Brooks claims mainstream news sources, even Metro, focus on Israeli dissatisfaction with Secretary of State John Kerry rather than Palestinian protests against Kerry. However, Mr. Brooks' acknowledgment that "the PA Palestinian Authority does not allow dissent" should clarify why a Palestinian protest is not taken seriously by most of the Western press. Which citizen dissent is more likely to be genuine: The Israeli who can support or criticize his government, or the Palestinian who is told to support or criticize his government? A Palestinian echoing his government's policies is not newsworthy and possibly even false. Israelis are free to say anything, unlike people in Palestine and almost the entire Middle East region.

KEVIN METZ, VIA EMAIL

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Read letters at Metro.us

In addition to news, features, updates and more, Metro is posting letters to the editor at Metro.us.

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

Interactive Crossword

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3 SPORTS

Out there

Silver: Collins not a bias situation

One day after former Missouri football player Michael Sam came out as gay, NBA commissioner Adam Silver was forced to answer questions about why out player Jason Collins hasn't been signed. "In terms of Jason not getting signed, based on everything I've been told, it's a basketball decision," Silver said.

Plumlee finding his role on veteran Nets

NBA. Mason Plumlee has started to find his place among the most experienced team in the league.

Plumlee is averaging 10.3 points per game in February despite averaging under 20 minutes. / GETTY IMAGES

When you're the only rookie on the team with the highest payroll in the league, you do a lot of waiting for your time to shine.

Former Duke power forward Mason Plumlee is learning that the hard way this season, mostly stuck behind veterans Kevin Garnett, Andray Blatche and Reggie Evans in a deep frontcourt.

But Plumlee finally got a chance Sunday night to show what the Nets hoped for when they took him No. 22 overall in this past year's NBA Draft.

"As a player, you always prepare to play," Plumlee said. "You have your own vision of how things are going to happen. I was just like, 'I'm going to be ready to play when they need me, try to earn some minutes and go from there.'"

Plumlee posted a career-high 22 points and tied a best from Dec. 31 against the Spurs with 13 rebounds. And he did all of it in just 28 minutes as the team tries to replace some of the production lost for the season when Brook Lopez underwent foot surgery.

"In practice, he's tremendous," Andrei Kirilenko said of Plumlee. "He's a guy who is tall and could move. In this league, when a big guy can move and get open and not just stand waiting for the ball, that's very important."

Plumlee showed his agility by making 8-of-10 shots. He successfully showcased his improvement on pick-and-roll plays and continued playing well since being named to the Rising Stars Game.

"I've just seen the growth and maturity from Mason that we've all been waiting for," Jason Terry said. "Early on he played a lot, then he didn't play as much, so his confidence kind of went a bit. He was down on himself but I told him to just keep working."

LARRY FLEISHER and MARK OSBORNE

Lopez speaks

It was ironic Plumlee had his best night the same day Lopez spoke to the media for the first time since surgery.

- "I'm confident I'm going to get back on the floor and I'm going to do everything I can," Lopez said. "There's no doubt in my mind that I'll be back out there playing with my guys."

A-Rod questions

DEREK JETER
GETTY IMAGES

Jeter already answering Rodriguez questions

Yankees spring training doesn't even officially begin until Feb. 14, but shortstop Derek Jeter is already hearing questions about suspended teammate Alex Rodriguez.

Rodriguez dropped his lawsuit against MLB and the players' association over the weekend, meaning he will serve the one-year ban handed down in arbitration.

"He's not here for this season, so we're going to have to find ways to win with the team that we have,'' Jeter told the AP at the Yankees' minor league complex Monday. "It's a complicated situation, but it's pretty much played out. That's what has happened.''

MARK OSBORNE

Wheel's up

Wheeler wants to start opener

Matt Harvey is out for the season and Zack Wheeler is already gunning for his spot.

Wheeler told ESPN yesterday he is looking to start Opening Day for the Mets.

"Last year I was coming in trying to win a spot," Wheeler said. "This year I'm trying to get the Opening Day spot."

Wheeler enjoyed a tremendous rookie season with the Mets last season, even if it wasn't quite as explosive as Harvey's two seasons ago.

He was 7-5 with a 3.42 ERA in 17 starts and won four of his first five decisions with the Mets. METRO

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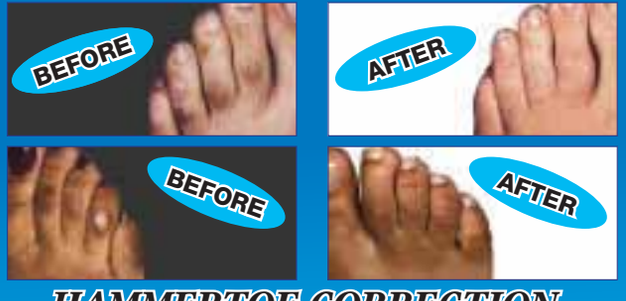

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NBA. Mike Woodson expects to remain as Knicks head coach

Knicks head coach Mike Woodson doesn't appear to have been given any assurances he'll remain in charge throughout the season, but he certainly expects to be.

"This is not about me," Woodson said after practice Monday. "Unless you guys know something I don't know, then the only thing I can say is I'm going to be back. Unless you guys know something, I'm the coach of the Knicks and that's all I know."

The Knicks were blown out by the Thunder on Sunday and have struggled to a 20-31 record with one game before the All-Star break.

WOODSON IS 92-65 WITH THE KNICKS.
GETTY IMAGES

The team has already lost more times this season than all of last season. The Knicks are two games out of the last playoff spot right now. METRO

Johnnies making a late bid

NCAA. St. John's has won six of their last seven games and are now on the bubble to make the tournament.

"We're starting to see the hard work pay dividends and it's very exciting for our staff to witness the breakthroughs."
Steve Lavin, head coach
On his team's improvement over the last month

Head coach Steve Lavin's Red Storm squad is finally starting to play like they were predicted to start the season. / GETTY IMAGES

There was no darker point in St. John's basketball season than Jan. 16. The Johnnies walked off the court at Carnesecca Arena after a double overtime loss to Providence with the knowledge they blew chance after chance to turn around their season.

They haven't wasted that opportunity since.

After their biggest win of the season Sunday night — a 70-65 win over No. 12 Creighton — the Red Storm is riding a three-game winning streak and have won six of seven games since the Providence loss. The only loss in that time period was to Creighton, avenged the last time out.

And suddenly the Red Storm (15-9) is in the NCAA tournament hunt after falling to 9-8 on Jan. 16.

"I feel like we can beat anybody we play right now," sophomore and leading-rebounder JaKarr Sampson said after the Creighton win. "What we've been stressing is getting off to the right start. That was the problem earlier in the season. We would always start slow and dig ourselves a hole. On this stretch we've been getting off to really great starts so that's the key. Getting off to great starts and carrying it throughout the game."

That confidence will be key down the stretch with seven games to boost their NCAA tournament résumé. If you put stock in such things, ESPN's Joe Lunardi has St. John's as one of his "Next Four Out" in his Feb. 10 Bracketology.

It's clear, regardless of where exactly and how large it is, the Red Storm is squarely on the tournament bubble.

They begin their tournament push with a big game Thursday night against fellow old Big East rival Seton Hall at the Prudential Center.

"You want to win every game but it's rewarding to see the development coming given our earlier struggles," head coach Steve Lavin said. "We're not satisfied, and cannot afford to be complacent as we haven't accomplished anything of significance yet."

St. John's has winnable games against Xavier, Georgetown and DePaul — all at home — as part of their final seven. But they lost to all three in the ugly six-game losing streak topped off by the loss against Providence.

"I'm as proud of this group as any I've coached in terms of resiliency, gumption, fight back and character," Lavin said. "I think this group is developing at a nice rate. The hardship we faced earlier in the season seems to have forged a certain strength. We're not satisfied, we haven't achieved anything of significance, but [the Creighton] win is another hurdle that has been cleared and an indication that this team is improving."

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

Remaining schedule

The Red Storm have seven teams left on their schedule, but only one is ranked.

- St. John's at Seton Hall
  Feb. 13, 9 p.m., FS1
- St. John's vs. Georgetown
  Feb. 16, 7 p.m., FS1
- St. John's vs. Butler
  Feb. 18, 9 p.m., FS1
- St. John's at No. 6 Villanova
  Feb. 22, 1:30 p.m., FS1
- St. John's vs. Xavier
  Feb. 25, 7 p.m., FS1
- St. John's vs. DePaul
  March 2, noon, CBSS
- St. John's at Marquette
  March 8, noon, FS1

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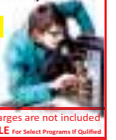

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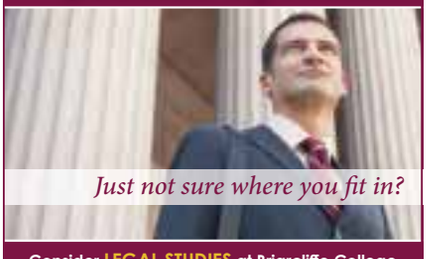

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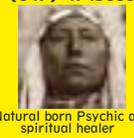

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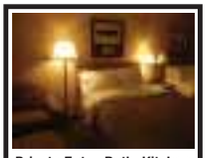

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